# A Real Gremlin Encounter in Oklahoma

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As an author who writes about paranormal subjects, I regularly receive calls on the paranormal hotline and emails describing encounters that fall outside conventional explanation. Some reports are brief, others deeply personal.

Occasionally, one arrives with a level of detail that lingers — not because it proves anything, but because it reflects how profoundly the experience affected the people involved. The following message was sent to me by Cory Cole, who shared an account of a cryptid encounter that took place in Oklahoma in 1995. Cory believes the entity involved was a gremlin.

**A drawing of the gremlin seen in Oklahoma in 1995.**

**Cory's Message:**

Hello Paul. My name is Cory Cole. I'm just a country boy, born and raised in Southwest Oklahoma, just a few miles north of the Oklahoma Red River. For 52 years, it's been my home. I've never done an official paranormal investigation, but I've had so many paranormal experiences that I would have a difficult time counting them all.

The paranormal experience that made a serious impact on my life — and my good friend Jeremy's life — happened at a small cemetery in 1995. Since then, almost every paranormal, supernatural, and cryptid encounter (except for the winged gremlin encounter) happened when we were together. I was a little upset that I didn't get to see the gremlin, but you can't win them all.

My friend came directly to my house after it happened, pale-faced and still in shock. He was welding on something under the carport in front of his home when he flipped up his welding hood. The gremlin creature either jumped or flew out of the tree in his front yard, over the hood of his wife's Camaro, and landed less than six feet in front of him.

The gremlin was about two-and-a-half feet tall. Its wings were attached to its back just below its crooked neck. The gremlin's two arms were separate from its wings. It had a dead squirrel in one hand, taking a bite out of it, much like a little kid eating and stretching a bar of taffy. My friend said its eyes were backlit, corona-colored, emitting their own light. Its pupils were vertical slits. He tried to capture it on video with his iPhone, but it was emitting some type of interference.

He said it stayed for at least five minutes. He switched his phone from video to photo camera, and the interference wasn't quite as bad. The images still didn't have color. He took a few pictures before it hopped off into the darkness.

We got his son to clean up one picture with his laptop, and this is the best he could do. If you look closely, you can see where its wings are attached to its back. If you're wondering why its ears are outlined, it is because Jeremy and I both lost the picture on our phones. I remembered sharing the picture with a friend of ours, and we got lucky. She had to go back almost two years through her old messages to retrieve it.

She asked me where its ears were located in the photo, and I told her to outline where she thought they were

located. That's why they're outlined. I also had Jeremy draw a quick sketch of the winged gremlin. He's an amazing artist, but I wouldn't let him spend two days drawing it. He didn't want anyone to see his sketch because he's a perfectionist, and I wanted it simple. I'll attach the sketch with the picture.

### Gremlins, Foo Fighters, and Wartime Folklore

Cory refers to this cryptid as a "gremlin" because, to him and his friend Jeremy, that is exactly what it looked like. While there have been very few confirmed sightings of creatures officially labeled as gremlins, the idea of gremlins has existed for decades within folklore and popular culture.

The modern concept of gremlins emerged during World War II, when pilots and flight crews blamed unexplained mechanical failures on mischievous, unseen entities. These stories were often shared half-jokingly, but they reflected the stress and danger of wartime flying. The term became widely known through Roald Dahl's book *The Gremlins* and later through the film *Gremlins*.

**An actual photo of the gremlin.**

While gremlins themselves are generally regarded as fictional, World War II pilots were reporting encounters with something very real to them — phenomena known as "foo fighters." During World War II, foo fighters were described as unidentified flying objects or strange aerial phenomena observed by Allied pilots, particularly those in the 415th Night Fighter Squadron. These objects appeared in both the European and Pacific theaters and were often reported as glowing orbs of light capable of flying alongside aircraft and performing rapid, erratic maneuvers. Initially, they were suspected to be secret enemy weapons.

Investigations considered a range of explanations, including electrostatic effects, optical illusions, and hallucinations brought on by fatigue or stress. None of these explanations ever fully accounted for the sightings. As a result, foo fighters remain unexplained.

Some ufologists believe foo fighters were early UFO or UAP encounters, while others suggest they may have been some form of extraterrestrial surveillance technology. During my time in the Army, I met two World War II pilots in 1973 who believed the gremlins blamed for mechanical failures aboard their aircraft originated from these glowing orbs.

According to these pilots, the gremlins would fly alongside their planes as foo fighters, then materialize onto the aircraft itself, interfering with systems before rematerializing back into glowing spheres and flying away.

### The Hopkinsville Goblins and the Gremlin Connection

The closest historical case resembling a true gremlin encounter may be the Kelly–Hopkinsville encounter of 1955. It involved a Kentucky family who claimed they were harassed for hours by small, humanoid creatures. Witnesses described the entities as standing between two and four feet tall, with large pointed ears, glowing yellow eyes, claw-like hands, and spindly legs.

The creatures reportedly floated or swayed as they moved and made metallic sounds when struck by gunfire, appearing unaffected by bullets. Their mischievous behavior and goblin-like appearance earned them the nickname "Hopkinsville Goblins," though the description could just as easily fit what some might call gremlins.

Gremlin mythology likely began as a way to cope with the dangers of wartime aviation, but over time it expanded into a broader explanation for unexplained mechanical failures — even in everyday life. Popular culture later cemented the image of gremlins through films and books, giving them a recognizable form.

The two World War II pilots I spoke with described gremlins as small beings about three feet tall, with long pointed ears, wrinkled faces, and greenish-gray skin. They believed these entities were directly connected to foo fighters and capable of shifting between physical form and luminous aerial phenomena.

Whether gremlins are purely fictional or rooted in something genuinely paranormal remains an open question — one that accounts like Cory's continue to raise, challenge, and quietly complicate. ◆